Control Rooms to Monitor PDS

799. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether all States and Union Territories have been asked to set up Control rooms in each district to monitor Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the consumers under PDS can report to these control rooms for malpractices in their respective Fair Price Shops;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith of each control room in the country district-wise alongwith their telephone numbers;

(e) whether Government propose to advise consumers to make complaints with these control rooms for non-availability of PDS items in the first week of every relevant month; and

(f) if so, details thereof with functions of such control rooms in these circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has requested the State Governments/UT Administrations to set up district-wise control rooms where the consumers could report non-availability of public Distribution System (PDS) commodities and malpractices by Fair Price Shopkeepers and by unscrupulous traders. They have been requested to give wide publicity in this regard to the telephone numbers, name, designation and address of the control room officers. They have also been requested to ensure extensive dissemination of information about the quantities and prices at which such essential commodities are being made available, on a regular basis, through the electronic media. Since the operational responsibility of implementing the Public Distribution System rests with the State Governments/UT Administrations, the details of such control rooms, district-wise, are not maintained by the Central Government.

Reports regarding shortage of commodities at shops under PDS

800. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of adequate stocks of foodgrains, there were regular of shortage of rice, wheat, and sugar at various shops under PDS in Delhi, Rajasthan and Orissa apart from supply of substandard quality of foodgrains under PDS;

(b) if so, what concrete steps Government propose to take to revamp/strengthen the PDS in the country by ensuring regular supply during 1995-96; and

(c) whether Government have decided to exclude income-tax payers in Delhi and elsewhere from purview of PDS, if so, details thereof statewise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The Central Government make bulk allocations of six key essential commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, imported edible oil, soft coke and kerosene to States/UTs for distribution through fair price shops through the Public Distribution System (PDS). It is the responsibility of the State Governments/UTs to further distribtue the allocated quantities to consumers as part of their

operational responsibilities. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has reported that there is no shortage of wheat and rice and these commodities were supplied to PDS outlets in Delhi as per demand. However, there has been some delay in supplying sugar to the Fair Price Shops due to some operational problems. The Governments of Rajasthan and Orissa have not reported any shortage of rice, wheat and sugar in the Fair Price Shops.

(b) The strengthening and streamlining of the PDS is a continuous process. The Scheme of Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) implemented in 1775 blocks in the country since 1-1-1992 is being continued. The Central Government is continuously monitoring the implementation of the PDS/RPDS in the States/UTs and regular consultations are held with the States/UTs in this regard.

(c) As per the present policy of the Central Government coverage of PDS is universal in nature. Central Government has not taken any decision to exclude Income Tax Payers from Public Distribution System. As part of their operational responsibility State Governments/UT Administrations take decisions regarding eligibility criteria, issue of ration cards etc. Certain States like Gujarat, Haryana and Rajasthan have reported that certain categories of consumers in their States have been excluded from eligibility from supply of wheat and rice through the Public Distribution System. Governments of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have reported that they have implemented a dual ration card system under which households identified as poor are being supplied PDS foodgrains at prices which are especially subsidised by the State Governments.

राज्यों द्वारा उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम को प्रभावी ढंग से क्रियान्वित न किया जाना

801. **श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरौला :** क्या नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार ने उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम को प्रभावी ढंग से लागू न किए जाने के संबंध में हाल ही में किन-किन राज्यों से संपर्क किया है ;

(ख) उस पर राज्य सरकारों की प्रतिक्रिया, राज्यवार क्या रही है ; और

(ग) उक्त अधिनियम का सख्ती से क्रियान्वयन किए जाने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कारगर कदम उठाए गए हैं ?

नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह) : नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासनों से उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम, 1986 को कारगर ढंग से लागू करने के लिए समय-समय पर कहता रहा है ।

(ख) और (ग) उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार देश भर में 31 राज्य आयोग तथा 457 जिला मंच कार्य कर रहे हैं । जम्मू व कश्मीर राज्य ने जम्मू व कश्मीर उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम 1987 के रूप में एक पृथक कानून बनाया है, जिसके तहत एक राज्य आयोग तथा दो प्रभागीय मंच कार्य कर रहे हैं ।